

February 1, 2007

The Walton County Board of Commissioners held a called meeting on Thursday, February 1, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Walton County Government Building, 303 South Hammond Drive, Suite 330, Monroe, Ga. Those present included Chairman Kevin Little, Commissioners Michael Turner, Vickie Gasaway, Lamar Palmer, Gerald Atha and John Robinson, County Clerk Leta Talbird, County Attorney Kirby Atkinson, Personnel Director Karen Fraser, Finance Officer Christi Pickens and Planning Director Mike Martin. A list of citizens and other employees in attendance at this meeting is on file in the auxiliary file under this meeting date. Commissioner Ayers did not attend the meeting due to a family illness.

Chairman Little called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Gasaway opened the meeting in prayer.

Commissioner Robinson made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Turner seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Turner made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2007 and January 23, 2007 meetings. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Duane Schlereth and Jennifer Wilson of Bates, Carter and Company presented the audit of the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2006.

Finance Officer Christi Pickens presented contracts and budgeted purchases of \$2,500.00 or greater for the Board's consideration. Commissioner Turner made a motion to approve contracts and budgeted purchases as presented. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Ms. Pickens presented resolutions authorizing Georgia Fund 1 accounts for SPLOST Bond proceeds, SPLOST revenues and Impact Fees. Commissioner Turner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gasaway, to adopt all three resolutions as presented. All voted in favor.

The Board considered bids received for the construction of a walking trail at Meridian Park. Commissioner Turner made a motion to accept the low bid from Atlanta Paving & Concrete Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$134,995.00. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Battalion Chief Donnie McCullough presented an FY06 Assistance to

Firefighters Grant award in the amount of \$180,000.00. He stated that the grant requires a ten percent local match and that if accepted, the local match in the amount of \$20,000.00 would come from the Fire Department's current operating budget. Commissioner Robinson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to accept the grant proceeds. All voted in favor.

Chief McCullough presented two donation checks from Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. in the amount of \$750.00 each that were donated to Walton County Fire Rescue and to Walton County Emergency Management Agency. Commissioner Robinson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to accept the donations. All voted in favor.

Personnel Director Karen Fraser presented employee new hires and promotions for the Board's consideration. Commissioner Gasaway made a motion to approve new hires and promotions as presented, for the record. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Ms. Fraser presented an Employee Benefits Committee recommendation to amend the Leave Donation Policy. She stated that in an effort to adhere to the HIPAA regulations that provide for the protection of personal health information for employees, the Employee Benefits Committee recommended that its chairperson appoint five members to serve as ad-hoc members to review all requests for donated leave. After discussion, Commissioner Robinson made a motion to table a decision on the amendment until the March 1, 2007 meeting in order to confirm that the leave donation policy meets HIPAA regulations. Commissioner Turner seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

The Board considered a request from Ethaniel Rakestraw to be paid a 2006 longevity supplement for 25 years of service. Personnel Director Karen Fraser explained that Mr. Rakestraw retired from full-time employment status and converted to temporary employment status effective 9/30/06. She stated that his retirement benefits began on 10/01/2006 and that temporary employees are not eligible for the longevity supplement. Ms. Fraser stated that longevity is calculated as of January 2 of the year in which the supplement is provided and is paid in the paycheck that includes October 31st. She added that it has been the practice since 1999 that employees must be on the payroll when longevity checks are processed. After further discussion, Commissioner Palmer made a motion to approve payment of longevity pay to Ethaniel Rakestraw in the amount of \$1,250.00. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion. Commissioners Palmer, Atha and Robinson voted in favor. Commissioners Turner and Gasaway abstained. Chairman Little voted in favor. The motion carried 4-0.

The Board considered ratification of actions taken by the Walton County

Water & Sewerage Authority at its January 20, 2007 meeting. Water Authority General Manager Wendell Geiger gave a summary of the meeting. Commissioner Turner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Palmer, to ratify the actions taken by the Authority at its January 20, 2007 meeting. All voted in favor.

Planning & Development Director Mike Martin and Jimmy Parker of Precision Planning, Inc. reviewed fire flow water pressure requirements for future development. Mr. Parker presented a map delineating areas with sufficient water pressure to provide required fire flow.

Recreation Director Jody Johnson presented proposals for development of three passive parks located in unincorporated Walton County along with a preliminary budget for the projects. Mr. Johnson also gave an update on ongoing improvements at Mathews Park. Commissioner Robinson made a motion to approve the development of three passive parks and to go ahead and assemble a detailed budget for the projects. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Facilities Manager Joyce Chambers presented plans and a preliminary budget to fence in and create a secure parking area for the Government Building. The Board discussed whether or not there is a need to fence the entire back section of the employee parking area. The Board discussed an alternate fence plan that would only fence one-half of the back section of the parking area. Commissioner Turner made a motion to approve the alternate fence plan and directed Ms. Chambers to go back to the Superior Court Judges to discuss the alternate plan that will not require blocking the entire back section of the parking area. He further moved that if there is an issue with the alternate plan, to bring it back before the Board for further discussion. Commissioner Turner further moved to approve the fencing budget not to exceed \$47,507.00. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Ms. Chambers presented a plan and preliminary budget for additional office space in the unfinished area on the ground floor of the Government Building. Ms. Chambers stated that the proposed budget for the improvements is \$78,460.66. Commissioner Turner made a motion to approve the plan and the preliminary budget. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Ms. Chambers presented a budget for repairs for Criswell Park. She stated that a storm had damaged fencing and dugouts. She stated that the County's insurance will cover repairs to the dugouts, but will not cover the cost of replacement fencing. Ms. Chambers stated that the cost of the fence would be around \$4,000.00. Commissioner Robinson made a motion to approve the

repairs. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Ms. Chambers requested the Board consider rental of the Historic Courthouse for weddings, meetings, etc. The Board directed Ms. Chambers to put together a fee structure and bring the matter back to the Board for consideration.

Commissioner Atha made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Palmer, to approve a Sheriff's Department request to accept two homemade trailers that were unclaimed for 90 days following their seizure. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Turner made a motion to appoint the following citizens to the Development Authority of Walton County: Ann Peppers – One-year term to expire November 30, 2007, Tim Barron – Mayor of Loganville and Debra Smith – Walton County Chamber of Commerce Chairperson. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Turner made a motion to appoint Kurt Hansen to the Walton County Planning Commission representing Commission District 2. Commissioner Atha seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Turner made a motion to appoint Norma Billingsley to the Partnership for Families, Children and Youth Board of Directors. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Atha made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to appoint Amy Neathery to the Partnership for Families, Children and Youth Board of Directors. All voted in favor.

Fire Department Battalion Chief Donnie McCullough presented a contract with The Omega Group, Inc. for Fire Department Reporting Software. Commissioner Gasaway made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to approve the contract. All voted in favor.

Jimmy Parker of Precision Planning, Inc. presented a proposal for land surveying and engineering design services for safety improvements on Sharon Church Road. Commissioner Turner made a motion to approve the proposal in an amount not to exceed \$46,195.00. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Gasaway made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to approve Purchase of Services for Juvenile Offenders contracts with John R. Mura and Michael Scott. All voted in favor.

Attorney Chris Atkinson presented a Police Protection Contract with the City of Walnut Grove. Commissioner Gasaway made a motion to approve the contract. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Turner made a motion to approve a Fiscal Agent Designation Agreement for the Partnership for Families, Children and Youth. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

The Board considered an agreement with Flagship GIS, Inc. to design and install a Commission District Overlay on each of the County's GIS websites. Commissioner Palmer made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gasaway, to approve the agreement in the amount of \$1,250.00. All voted in favor.

The Board considered a request from Chief Magistrate Judge Mike Burke for approval of a cellular telephone contract with Verizon Wireless. Commissioner Turner made a motion to table a decision on the contract in order to check with Judge Burke to verify the terms of the contract. He further moved to direct Purchasing Agent Rhonda Hawk to get with County Attorney Kirby Atkinson to come up with a cellular telephone policy for the Board's consideration. Commissioner Atha seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Gasaway made a motion to approve a contract with Qore, Inc. for Water Quality Sampling & Testing Services. Commissioner Turner seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Gasaway made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Atha, to approve a Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Planning Contract with North Georgia Consulting Group, LLC. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Gasaway made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Atha, to approve a Proclamation stating that Walton County Emergency Management Agency, in conjunction with the Georgia Emergency Management Agency, will assemble a community-based planning team, comprised of public and private sector representatives, to develop a Hazard Mitigation Plan for approval by the Walton County Board of Commissioners. All voted in favor.

At 9:11 p.m., Commissioner Turner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

All documents of record for this meeting are on file in either the addendum

book or auxiliary file under this meeting date.

<u>KEVIN W. LITTLE, CHAIRMAN</u>	<u>LETA P. TALBIRD, CLERK</u>
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MICHAEL TURNER, DISTRICT 2

<u>VICKIE M. GASAWAY, DIST. 3</u>	<u>LAMAR PALMER, DISTRICT 4</u>
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<u>GERALD ATHA, DISTRICT 5</u>	<u>JOHN ROBINSON, DISTRICT 6</u>
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